

Mr. Football Cole Euverard leads the MBA football program
to a State Championship matchup vs. Ensworth.
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THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Windows of Opportunity

Nashville street newspaper vendors discuss their experiences and life beyond the confines of our closed car windows.



PHOTO BY AARON KAPLAN/BR

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Dr. Ric Rader No Longer an Alien

Face on Campus

By Kang Huh
Associate Editor

Whether you know him as the man in the three-piece suit, your "Herr Flow," or the *Ancient Aliens* star, Dr. Richard Rader is a new teacher who has made his presence known after a mere quarter on the Hill.

Educated at the University of Virginia, Dr. Rader has already had a long career of lecturing and teaching at the college level prior to arriving at MBA, having taught at colleges such as Ohio State University, the University of Southern California, and the University of Santa Barbara.

In California, Dr. Rader also made an extensive appearance on the show *Ancient Aliens*, on which he provided the mythological context upon which the theories

were based. Although he refused to say the words "ancient alien" as a part of his clips, Dr. Rader made a prominent and long-lasting appearance on the show, even meeting the famed Giorgio A. Tsoukalos following one of his interviews.

After being on television and teaching college students for over 10 years, Dr. Rader made the decision to teach at the high school level during the spring of 2014 following Dr. Edward Gaffney's retirement. With big shoes to fill, Dr. Rader is currently teaching Latin, German, and Classical Greek.

Though some may think that classics is a dying tradition, Dr. Rader disagrees, saying that people are

especially interested in classics through the lens of pop culture, which he has tapped into through his work in *Clash of the Titans* and, more prominently, *Ancient Aliens*. As such, Dr. Rader has made it his goal to make classics "accessible to a younger generation of students."

Having moved from the collegiate level, though, he has found some noticeable differences in the way he goes about his day. Though the students are "just as good, if not better than" his college students, he finds the school day much more extensive. As a lecturer he taught fewer classes a day; Dr. Rader is now obligated throughout a full, eight-period day. Despite the longer workday,

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The choir program has elevated music on the Hill to a new level.

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BASKETBALL PREVIEW

MBA will follow its seniors en route to the state championship at Allen Arena in February.

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Hi-five-a-Microbe Off to an Enthusiastic Start

By Richard Thornton
Staff Writer

So much of MBA is based on seniority: seniors get special privileges like eating on the P. Hale Plaza and signing out of school on the Headmaster's list; high school students use the newest academic buildings; captains of sports teams are generally juniors or seniors; a chorus of falsetto cries goes up whenever a junior school student makes an announcement at assembly.

It is easy for upperclassmen to take advantage of this hierarchical system and be condescending toward younger students. The Class of 2015 wants to overcome that stereotype.

Last summer, some senior leaders brainstormed ideas to break down barriers between the high school and junior school. The result was

"Hi-Five-a-Microbe," an initiative that encourages upperclassmen to interact with junior school students on campus. The seniors hope this movement will build camaraderie and forge an even stronger MBA community.

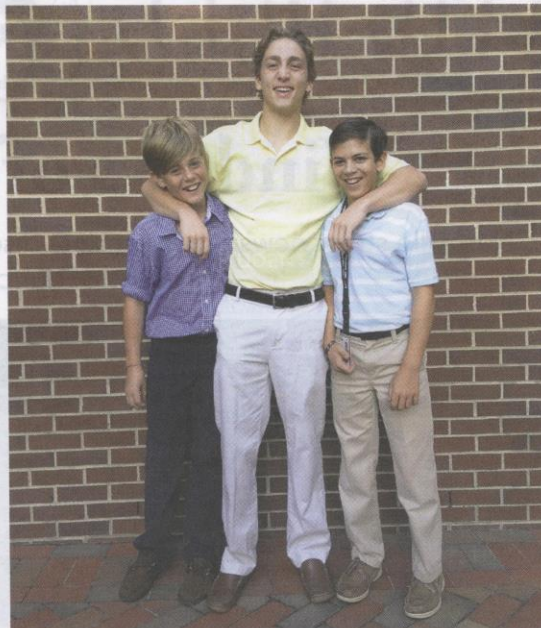
Cole Jones, the father of this effort, said, "At MBA we are constantly under the pressure of tests, projects, and sports. We often walk to class staying in our own lane. Our eyes are focused on the ground and our minds focused on the next task. Hi-Five-a-Microbe is about remembering to get out of our lanes, to look up, and to reach out to those who look up to us in the pursuit of a stronger community."

In this sense, Hi-Five-a-Microbe is more than a way to welcome younger students to campus; it is a way to enhance the entire MBA community by creating a greeting culture on campus. Whether it is a simple head nod, hi-five, or a deeper conversation, anyone can benefit by learning about another person.

Making an effort to be interested in others will deepen the already strong brotherhood at MBA. The Class of 2015 hopes

to lay the foundation for a culture of inclusion that will last for years to come.

SO MANY SMILES, SO LITTLE TIME:
Blake Solarek ('15) takes advantage of his last year on the Hill by brightening the days of younger students.



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TV star takes to the classroom

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though, Dr. Rader describes teaching energetic and interested students as a highlight of his career.

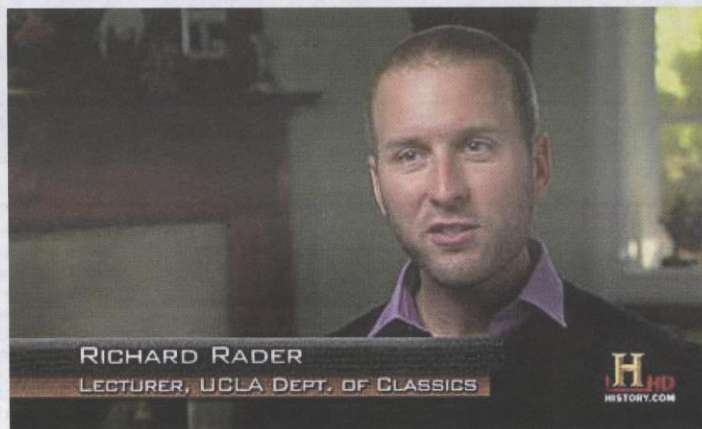
In addition to his academic involvements, Dr. Rader coaches the microbes in football and plans on coaching the microbe baseball team in the spring with his longtime friend, Mr. Matt Golenor. Dr. Rader also serves as the advisor for the Junior Class and joins Dr. Cal Fuller and Mrs. Annie B. Williams as an advisor for the Service Club.

As he progresses through his first year at MBA, Dr. Rader finds concern in his ability to connect

with younger students, having taught college students for so long. Dr. Rader stressed the importance of finding a way to connect with his students during his first year, noting the stark differences between the two types of students.

A benefit of teaching at MBA, he says, is that the students have a more concrete grasp of classical grammar because of the 2-year requirement students have. His Greek students, he says, especially benefit from learning Latin because they have the knowledge behind the Greek grammar. With his Greek class, he hopes to transition into a more translation-based course and hopes to read the original Greek versions of works such as the New Testament, Homer, and Sophocles.

Whether he is teaching his Greek students or coaching his football



TUNED INTO HISOTRY: Dr. Ric Rader made appearances on History Channel's "Ancient Aliens" during his stint at UCLA.

players, Dr. Rader is a teacher whose interests are very diverse. In his time as an MBA teacher, Dr. Rader has already distinguished himself as one of the most interesting teachers and is one worth meeting.

Listen to Kang's
interview online at:

www.thebellringer.org

New Teachers Find Welcoming Home

Mr. Michael Stewart

By John Triplett
Features Editor

After getting to know new faculty member Mr. Michael Stewart both personally and as a teacher, *The Bell Ringer* can confidently say that he is an excellent addition to the MBA community. The other classics teachers are excited that he is here and are sure that he will be a worthy addition to the department. Mr. Stewart serves as a Latin I and Latin II teacher and earned a degree in Classics in 2003 from the University of Texas (Austin). He also earned a JD from the University of Alabama in 2011. Truly a classics-lover, Mr. Stewart has always had interest in the ancient world but really "discovered it as [his] passion" while at the University of Texas. Mr. Stewart enjoys connecting lessons and aspects from the ancient world "to today's ever-changing world." While Mr. Stewart acknowledges that very few people aside from the Pope actually speak Latin anymore, he (like many classics scholars) is adamant that it is not a dead language. He exclaimed that "Latin is so alive in the world today. Some people just refuse to see it. The Roman language, culture, and political system serve so many purposes in the world from languages to modern Western culture." In fact, Mr. Stewart teaches classics because of his belief in "the importance of the past and its ever-important application to the present and the future." Overall, Mr. Stewart is a firm believer in the importance of classics and its ability to teach hard work, skills with romance languages, history, and understanding of other cultures.



Stewart



Hardin



Raney

Mr. Stewart enjoys the challenges and rewards of teaching and explained that he "truly relishes every moment I am teaching, no matter how frustrating." Although he has big shoes to fill after replacing Dr. Gaffney and Mr. Gaither, both classics legends, he proclaimed that he "is up for the challenge" and hopes "to find a way to be as great as they were." Indeed, other MBA classics teachers have expressed their willingness to take on the challenge. They have also expressed their desire to face this massive task with enthusiasm and zeal.

On the athletic side, Mr. Stewart coaches for the Freshman Football team and Microbe Wrestling. Mr. Stewart explained that he "truly enjoys being a coach" and loves "getting to mentor and teach the boys in more than just sports." He values the life lessons which he is able to teach through coaching.

Overall, Mr. Stewart is very glad and excited to have found a home at MBA. Mr. Stewart has noticed that "MBA is really unlike any place I've ever been before" and that "it's a place of the utmost respect, excellence, and attention to detail." Most of all, he loves that "it helps cultivate boys into amazing young men." After knowing the Powell family for many years now, he has been acquainted with MBA. Now, he is pleased that he has been able to become a part of the MBA community. The MBA community has great aspirations for Mr. Stewart, and it is hoped that he influences the Hill as much as it influences him.

Dr. William Hardin

By Jack Capizzi
Staff Writer

Dr. William Hardin has hit the ground running in his first year teaching at MBA. He is passionate about history and excited to join the faculty here at MBA. Dr. Hardin is teaching the ninth grade Ancient and Medieval History class just as his predecessor Mr. Samuel Lester did.

Dr. Hardin found out about the position through fellow history teacher Dr. Tim Boyd, whom he knew from his graduate school days at Vanderbilt University. When the position at MBA suddenly opened up, he was able to step in immediately for the start of the school year.

When asked what he was most looking forward to when coming to MBA, Dr. Hardin replied, "I'm looking forward to seeing the class develop a historical sense of the world and gain a more in-depth view on the dimension of time." One way Dr. Hardin helps to develop this sense of depth and time is involving the students in discussions and debates to broaden opinions and allow the students to view historical situations from all different perspectives, as his goal is "to see students develop a historical sense of the world, and of the world they live in

which is available through history."

His favorite movie, although he is unsure, is *The Matrix* because he likes to use it during class to illustrate the themes of Buddhism seen in the film. He has also used scenes from *300* to illustrate some of the tactics used by the Spartans during the Greco-Persian wars. Also, he has not only taught the facts of history but also some of the concepts of philosophers from the covered time periods. Dr. Hardin has a great ability to convey information to his students through ways that require deeper thinking of them to inevitably make them understand the paradigms and ideologies of the time periods studied.

In addition to his teaching, Dr. Hardin will be heading up the Youth in Legislature Club and coaching seventh grade soccer.

Dr. Hardin's classes are always interactive and unique, giving the students something to look forward to every day. His knowledge of the subject, belief in the importance of the subject and drive to educate his students in history makes every class entertaining, interactive and always exciting. Dr. Hardin is a great addition to the MBA staff as a great teacher who will bring another dynamic presence to the campus.

Mr. Michael Raney

By Jack Capizzi
Staff Writer

Mr. Michael Raney joined MBA's faculty this year after moving to Nashville when his wife's job was relocated here. While looking for an opportunity to continue his career in education, he was informed about MBA by a friend who happened to be a current MBA parent.

After applying and interviewing for a position at MBA, he received the position and was ready to go for the beginning of the year. This year, he is teaching three Geometry classes along with a College Algebra and Trigonometry class.

Mr. Raney had an extensive and interesting career before he decided to "settle down" and start teaching. After high school, he enrolled at West Point, which led to 20 years of service in the military.

He followed up his military career by spending three years in Eastern Africa as a missionary. Once he decided to return to the United States, he started teaching at the University of Kentucky (UK), where he taught for eight to nine years.

After his stint at UK, he transitioned to teaching high school, which he has taught for 15 years. When asked about how he is able to

incorporate his previous career into his everyday teaching, he said that there are many similarities. He said, "There is a similar sense of mission and wanting to accomplish something." This is a perfect description of the attitude he brings to class and the goals that he sets in class. He went on to say that his previous career has given him an ability to train and nurture the people below him, which allows him to enjoy the results. "I just enjoy teaching because it is rewarding to see the advancement in my students and their success," said Raney. It is extremely evident that seeing the progress and development gives him the drive and ability to bring his best knowledge of how to teach the subject on a daily basis.

One of the best things about Mr. Raney is the attitude of professionalism that he brings to the classroom. Mr. Raney is able to explain problems in a way that is clear and efficient so that each student can both understand and repeat the process himself.

Mr. Raney is also more than able to handle the other situations that may arise during class like discipline problems or class interest with ease, an ability that has been developed over his many different career experiences. Mr. Raney is an excellent teacher whose years of experience in his many endeavors are displayed every single class.

If the Price is Right

By Ian Scholer
News Editor

Earlier this month we witnessed something remarkable: the midterm elections. We witnessed the lowest participation in our cherished democratic process since the elections of 1942, when a good chunk of the electorate were busy saving the Western world. This year, we have no such excuse for our abysmal 34% voter turn-out. In a time when we Americans are growing ever more frustrated with the political system (Congress has a single digit approval rating), barely a third of the electorate tried to do anything about it. Unfortunately, the majority of those who did vote are devoted partisans, whereas the moderates stayed home. The result was the ousting of several moderates in Congress, especially moderate Democrats in conservative states such as Alaska, Iowa, and Arkansas. Their replacements are more likely to further increase the grand-canyon-sized partisan divide in Washington than to reach across the aisle.

Meager voter turn-out is not the only reason Washington became even more divided this election. This unwillingness to work with the other side is largely a result of the extreme amount of money in our political system. In case you weren't aware, look at the Senate race in North Carolina in which incumbent Senator Kay Hagan (D) was unseated by her Republican challenger. In that election alone, 113 million dollars were spent. To put that in perspective, over the course of the

entire last election cycle in Great Britain, 55 million dollars were spent.

Much of this money in American elections comes from outside groups with agendas and huge sums of cash ready to be donated to whichever candidate they think would represent their interests in Congress. These groups have taken the form of Super PACs, which have been given almost unlimited ability to donate by recent Supreme Court cases *Citizens United v. F.E.C.** and *McCullough v. F.E.C.* In both of these cases the Court ruled 5-4 in favor of allowing more money in politics, a detriment to our democracy. In these first midterms since the rulings, the candidate who spent the most money won 94% of the House races and 86% of the Senate races, suggesting that money, not ideology, was the single biggest factor in these elections.

Not only have Super PACs turned Congressmen into beggars for four hours of their day (both Republican and Democratic caucuses recommend that members spend at least four hours a day making fundraising calls), but they have also significantly contributed to our current gridlock. These PACs almost always have partisan interests and only give to candidates that promise to dutifully vote for their interests without any questions asked, making

compromise frustratingly difficult. The ability of the two sides to work together is also impeded by Congressmen's spending four hours a day on the phone instead of working with colleagues.

This mass spending also explains why Congress has been so idle. The 113th Congress was easily the least active ever, passing a paucity of purposeful laws. Unfortunately, the laws of nature tell us that Congressmen are human beings as well and therefore act in their own self-interest. Contrary to popular belief, Congressmen are also fairly intelligent, so they know that they must outspend their opponents to give themselves the best opportunity to win. They are, therefore, more likely to put fundraising ahead of governing and to put a meeting with a donor ahead of a meeting with policy makers. It has been estimated that members of the House of Representatives raise \$2,400 a day, while Senators raise \$4,700 a day for themselves. That sort of furious fundraising severely inhibits their ability to come together and work out a piece of bipartisan legislation, especially when those donors on the phones every morning are telling them to do exactly the opposite.

This gridlock was feared by our founders, and for good reasons. Our current state prevents us from being able to solve serious problems that may soon arise. Our democracy is being hijacked, as those who have the means to make their voices heard over the airwaves dominate politics. For this reason, the United States should adopt the British system of campaign finance. The British spend significantly less and see significantly more voter participation (70% in the last election). Their secret is preventing outside groups from participating in the elections. That means that their candidates are far less likely to be puppets for different interests and slaves to their financial supporters. With no unconditional loyalty to large organizations, their representatives act more moderately. Under the British system, Super PAC oligarchs like George Soros and the Koch brothers would have the exact same sway on their elected leaders as every other voter.

This equality of voice is essential to any democracy, and we risk losing it forever if we do not act.

**F.E.C. stands for Federal Election Commission*



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA

HOT TOPIC: Police Brutality

POLITICAL

RACIAL

By William Snow
Staff Writer

Eight-five. This represents the number of bullets fired by the entire German police force in the year 2011 according to *Der Spiegel*. Notably, eighty-four is the number of bullets it took New York City Police officers to take down just one single unarmed suspect in a murder case that same year.

While the notion of a lone officer or a group of police officers firing endlessly at an unarmed suspect seems radically barbaric and incredibly rare, as little as ten minutes of internet research proves otherwise. Just about every other year in this country, a harmless civilian is shot down by the police under a hail of dozens of bullets. In this context, Michael Brown's death is but another of these unnecessary and entirely preventable slaughters. Multiple rounds shredded the Ferguson native's body as he ran from Officer Wilson and then turned around to face him one last time. As witness to the incident Tiffany Mitchell said, "The cop gets out of his vehicle shooting. (Brown's) body jerked as if he was hit from behind, and he turned around, and he put his hands up. ... The cop continued to fire until he just dropped down to the ground, and his face just smacks the concrete."

The facts of the shooting are not yet entirely established, but one element of that hectic event is mostly agreed upon: Officer Wilson was overly aggressive and did not follow police protocol properly. Whether that failure to follow protocol ultimately incriminates Wilson is uncertain. However, American police academies and departments need to address the glaring problem prevalent in this case: police officers have become unworthy of the full trust of citizens. A good show of faith by departments would be to nationalize the growing practice of body-mounted video cameras which hold officers accountable for their actions by providing clear-cut visual evidence in any dispute.

A deeper-lying problem, however, remains: the men in blue, often undertrained and ill-prepared for the streets, tend to be trigger-happy. They shoot first and ask questions later, and yet they still almost always receive the benefit of the doubt. Especially when irritated by civilians like Michael Brown, they often have short fuses, reacting to their first instinct to shoot. A better and longer training process, routine performance inspections, and more accountability for making mistakes, as all humans do, are fairly rational solutions to a systemic problem.

In an ideal world, civilians would not see mall cops and traffic guards carrying pistols on their hips, but the idea of disarming officers is a debate too heated to take on with the controversy of police brutality already at hand. The fact that an entire nation could fire almost the same number of bullets in a year as



a couple of NYPD officers upon one unarmed man should raise flags to all Americans. Innocent or not, Americans cannot let Michael Brown die in vain. Citizens should not need hundreds more unnecessary deaths before they decide the system cannot hide the problems any longer.



CONFLICT OF IDEAS, IDEALS: Violence and unrest have left Ferguson, Missouri, with instability and thought-provoking questions. PHOTO: IBTIMES.CO.UK (center), BBC (above)

By Akeim George
Staff Writer

Since 2009, there have been reports of at least twelve unarmed black men killed by police officers and countless other reports of excessive force used by police officers across the United States. Even though incidents of police brutality have come into the national spotlight recently, officers have hardly ever faced serious consequences. One 2007 study found that less than 0.2% of complaints of excessive force, racial abuse, and false arrests resulted in police suspensions of longer than a week.

Yes, this is an issue that faces all Americans, regardless of race. But it is impossible to ignore that the majority of these incidents plague African Americans. In New York City, where the notorious "stopandfrisk" tactic is finally being phased out, police stop blacks twice as

recovered from this incident, but the officers who assaulted him did not receive even a suspension for their actions.

There is so much that can be done to limit, if not eliminate, the thousands of complaints of excessive force.

First, officers need to be held more accountable. More often than not, officers are given the benefit of the doubt in these cases. An officer's actions are justified if he or she "fears for his or her life," but it is not very often that an officer should fear for his or her life when dealing with civilians. Dashboard cameras and body cameras would greatly reduce instances of police brutality, as an officer's actions would be recorded. If he or she does not have enough restraint to treat civilians fairly without a camera, fear of repercussions would do the job of keeping civilians safe.

Secondly, police forces should be demilitarized. Since SWAT teams were introduced during the 1960s, police stations have been given military surplus weapons for use in the streets. At what point, though, is it necessary for officers to have military-grade sniper rifles, heavy body armor and armored vehicles to deal with mostly peaceful protests? Standard police training pales in comparison to military training, so giving these men and women military weapons is akin to giving a teenager the keys to a sports car and expecting him to behave. If you take away the military-grade weapons, police officers will be less likely to go power-crazy and say things like "Bring it, you f***ing animals!" to protesters, as one officer recently did in Ferguson, MO.

Finally, officers need to better represent the areas they serve. Most police officers do not serve in the areas in which they live, and this issue causes tension because of their unfamiliarity with their surroundings. In addition to not living in the areas they serve, more diversity in the police force would help, too. In most areas with high concentrations of minorities, the police officers are still made up of a majority of whites. This situation makes both civilians and officers uncomfortable because they don't feel as if they can relate to each other.

Police brutality can only be eliminated if the public and the police work together. The police efforts in stopping these brutalities can only be achieved through administrative means. Laws need to be passed that hold officers more accountable than at the current laws do, and police forces need to stop receiving military surplus without proper training. It is the public's job to continue to fight against police brutality through social media, rallies and, most importantly, the ballot.

frequently as the rate expected based on the population of New York.

Why is it that blacks are subject to such an invasive, and oftentimes violent, tactic? Clearly America has not entered a racism-free era. The stereotype of African Americans as belligerent thugs lies embedded in the minds of many officers who may become agitated when encountering a black citizen. This situation, which favors the officer, sometimes leads to misconduct by the police officer.

The issue is not just prevalent in Miami, Los Angeles or New York City, either. It exists right here at home, too.

Recently an MBA graduate was stopped by a two officers. They both began interrogating him simultaneously, and, after the MBA alumnus expressed his frustration, they threw him onto the ground and proceeded to beat him. Luckily, he has

Education Toss-Up: China vs. America

By John Fioravanti
Staff Writer

The heart of China lies 7,000 miles away. This country has come to be cast as the antithesis of America in popular culture. But in reality, how different are students in China from those on the Hill? How different are the schools?

At face value, the academic worlds are surprisingly similar. Required education begins with elementary school from grades one to six. Students continue through junior school (grades seven to nine), and then senior school (grades ten to twelve) for another three years—a system almost identical to that of America.

However, Chinese students must take the Chinese Standardized Graduating Exam, a one-time test which determines whether a student will attend university. Skills in literature, foreign language, and math are required for all students taking the exam. Science students' exams include physics, chemistry, and biology. Humanities students have politics, history, and geography on their exams.

China's competitive, high-pressure society revolves around making the cut. Students have one shot to make college while competing with the rest of the immense population of China. Acquiring an abundance of knowledge is crucial to perform well on this exam. As a Chinese proverb says, "Read ten thousands of books,

travel ten thousands of roads."

In Ms. Zhang's opinion, "by reading many books you are learning from other people's experiences and learning knowledge that has been passed on from generation to generation." In discussing this adage, she explains, "by traveling a lot, you are experiencing a new and different world with your own eyes and ears."

The focus which the Chinese have on reading and traveling reveals their focus on gathering knowledge in whatever way possible. In addition to reading, traveling, and learning in school, many enroll in extra classes on weekends and holidays to gain an advantage over other students. Students are often still at school until about 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. to study after a long day of academics. The ruthless academic schedule leaves little time in the day to include arts and sports, which many students and schools do not explore at all.

China's stress-filled environment is fertile ground for

academic success. Yet although students may excel in academics, they often lack the social, artistic, and athletic opportunities abundant at MBA. Because of their lack in these "extra" categories and their almost sole focus on school work, Chinese students often develop a special, intense type of work ethic which is not as common in the United States.

Both systems contain their own advantages. The Chinese work ethic seems to be something that Americans could adopt. Meanwhile, the Chinese should seek to develop themselves outside the traditional classroom. Ideally hybridizing the systems would lead to stronger students that maintain balanced lives.



Ebola: The (Over)hype

By Andrew Kaplan
Asst. Business Manager

Well, it appears that we have all calmed down. Networks like CNN have finally stopped broadcasting entirely about Ebola. As a nation, we have come to realize our safety. But in the aftermath of such a nationwide scare and media frenzy, it is more than appropriate to analyze the avenues by which the ordeal grew so large, as well as the impacts that it has had throughout America.

The scale of the Ebola "scare" was unprecedented—and greatly unnecessary. Regardless of political partisanship, we can all agree that Ebola was nothing more than a scare; the disease has proven to have no means of spreading to the masses, particularly in areas that are well enough equipped to deal with diseased peoples.

As soon as the virus neared American soil, the media took off with the story. As usual, thirsty for anything that will grip the American people, the media immediately developed the issue into a national alert. Within days, word had spread throughout the country that Ebola was going to strike America and that Americans needed to be prepared. But alas, the issue has blown over.

The main understanding that one can extract from this issue is that the media is to blame for the widespread Ebola panic. The media played the crucial role in this situation. The public was subjected to the exacerbation of the "pandemic" by the need for attention-grabbing, top story pieces that keep a media outlet relevant in the business.

Regardless, the effect on both MBA and the community at large has been tremendous. For example, the Twitter craze has been quite inordinate. Many, somewhat jokingly but mostly serious, were citing their

fears toward the disease with the expectation that it would spread. The sheer ignorance that the media produces caused a vast majority of Americans to panic—all for a good television show. The "BREAKING NEWS: EBOLA INFILTRATES THE UNITED STATES" headlines exacerbate any real issue at hand. This was a headline that could be found when the first man was flown to the CDC for a controlled curing process. While there has occasionally been a nurse or two infected, this



so-called "infiltration" or "invasion" into the US has proven to be bogus.

For the time being, rest easy, America... the so-called Ebola "epidemic" seems to have died down.



ON AIR: The media's treatment of the Ebola outbreak stirs a concerned public.

TOP RIGHT: MEDIAMATTERS.ORG

LEFT: NYMAG.COM



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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the *Bell Ringer* office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to bellringer@montgomerybell.edu (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; *The Bell Ringer* neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy at Montgomery Bell Academy. Tennessean/Gannett in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

Roll Red, Roll Down Your Windows



PHOTO BY AARON KAPLAN/BR

As you read (or have read) the article on local street newspaper vendors (page 12), notice that the people selling *The Contributor* and *Faith Unity* are people with interests and passions, goals and pursuits. These are people who enjoy talking to their customers, interacting with other people, not salesmen/women on a mission simply to earn money for survival. While money is necessary for their survival, and any contribution you can make is appreciated, communication and understanding are equally important for their livelihoods.

When you drive by a vendor and look awkwardly to the side, hesitating at the thought of rolling down your window to purchase a paper, put things in perspective. You have passions and desires, and you have means by which to act on them — that is a wonderful thing, no question. John, for example, has a passion for music, but has to worry about paying for necessities before he can spend time searching for a piano to play on. Help John put aside his financial struggles to do something he enjoys, something he takes pride in.

Jamie loves talking to people and exposing herself to the diverse Nashville cultural scene. Buy a paper, but strike up a conversation also. Become a story she will tell later on when she reflects back on her positive experience selling papers.

Sharon has built strong friendships with local passersby. She has even gone to dinners at the houses of her customers. Because she shows such a genuine concern for her surroundings and the people she interacts with, we must return the favor.

It's hard to fathom why a negative stigma pervades the opinions of many of us regarding these newspaper vendors who are always so accessible, so easy to assist. Why, on our ways home from school, are we often content to divert our gaze from the friendly lady walking up and down the Kenner Avenue sidewalk smiling and waving to the cars waiting at the Harding intersection light?

Let's make an effort, together, as a group, to become a community by definition. Let's embrace those around us and disregard any and all differences. Let's share our resources, our ideas, our friendships.

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Do you like to write, take photos or work on graphic design?

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Contact Aaron Kaplan, Kang Huh, Matt Miccioli or Anthony Swenson if you are interested.

Choral Program Hitting a High Note

By Richard Thornton
Staff Writer

MBA's choir department has come a long way since Matt Smyth arrived in 2009. Mr. Smyth has injected excitement into a program that now consists of over 100 boys.

Mr. Smyth's passion for music began at an early age. Following some of his friends, Mr. Smyth joined the Young Singers of Pennsylvania, which had the opportunity to sing at the 1994 World Series, White House, Atlanta Olympics, and Carnegie Hall. The strong bond formed from singing with a group inspired Mr. Smyth to pursue a degree in vocal performance at Moravian College, where he graduated Cum Laude. After school, he moved to New York City, where he sang around town and worked for a music-publishing house, the Metropolitan Opera, and Carnegie Hall. Although he enjoyed solo singing, Mr. Smyth went back to school to earn a masters degree in choral conducting from the University of Oklahoma.

After graduation, Mr. Smyth moved to Nashville and received an internship at MBA during David Cassel's final year. That year, MBA had one high school choir, an 8th period class with 50 students. There was also a junior school choir, which met twice a week. During his first year, Mr. Smyth learned from Dr. Cassel and developed a vision for the program. He started Voicemail, a small group, which met regularly and sang popular a capella music.

In his first year as the choral director, Mr. Smyth had 75 students in Big Red Chorus, a difficult number to

manage especially during eighth period. In order to alleviate the overflowing class problem, Mr. Smyth created the Chamber Choir, a class with students who had experience in choral singing and took music very seriously. Also, Smyth started Headmaster Singers, an extracurricular group that met before school to sing popular tunes.

After five years of work, Mr. Smyth has molded the choir department into a very strong part of the school. Currently there are six choirs – Chamber Choir, Headmaster's Singers, Big Red Chorus, Junior School Singers, Hill Singers, and Lads'n'Plaids.

The top group and new to campus this year is the Hill Singers. With the goal "to do contemporary a capella music at the highest level," this group consists of eight guys from the Chamber Choir. They meet three times a week singing pieces with one or two guys on a part.

The next group is Chamber Choir, a class meeting every day and consisting of students who have sung for two years. Mr. Smyth says, "These guys have refined ears, sight read very well, and are passionate about excellence," operating under the goal of "bringing

home trophies and representing MBA at the highest level."

Next is the Headmasters Singers, a class with students who have sung for a year or two. This group focuses on popular music with three or four guys on a part. With the isolation on a part, these singers develop confidence in their ability that they can use in Chamber Choir and

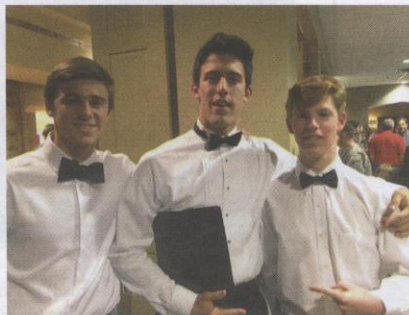
appreciate music.

The growth of the choir has led to an increased involvement in the community. Last year, the Chamber Choir was the only high school choir asked to perform a concert at First Presbyterian Church. Also, MBA groups have combined with Lipscomb and Vanderbilt for concerts. Mr. Smyth is proud that the choral department is "creating a name for MBA – that we do more than sports."

Along with receiving invitations to sing at concerts, the choral groups have experienced increased success in the Mid-State and All-State competitions since Mr. Smyth's arrival. In 2009, no one from MBA made the Mid-State Chorus. In his first year, one singer made the All-State Chorus. This year six singers made the All-State Chorus, and twelve were alternates. In addition, four students made the All-National Choir last year – Andrew Porter, Greg Quesinberry, John Triplett, and Wes Richardson.

MBA has sent its Chamber Choir to the All-State competition for the last five years. Last year, the group earned its highest score ever, 11.29 out of 12. The Big Red Chorus has performed well at Mid-State and even made it to All-State in 2012.

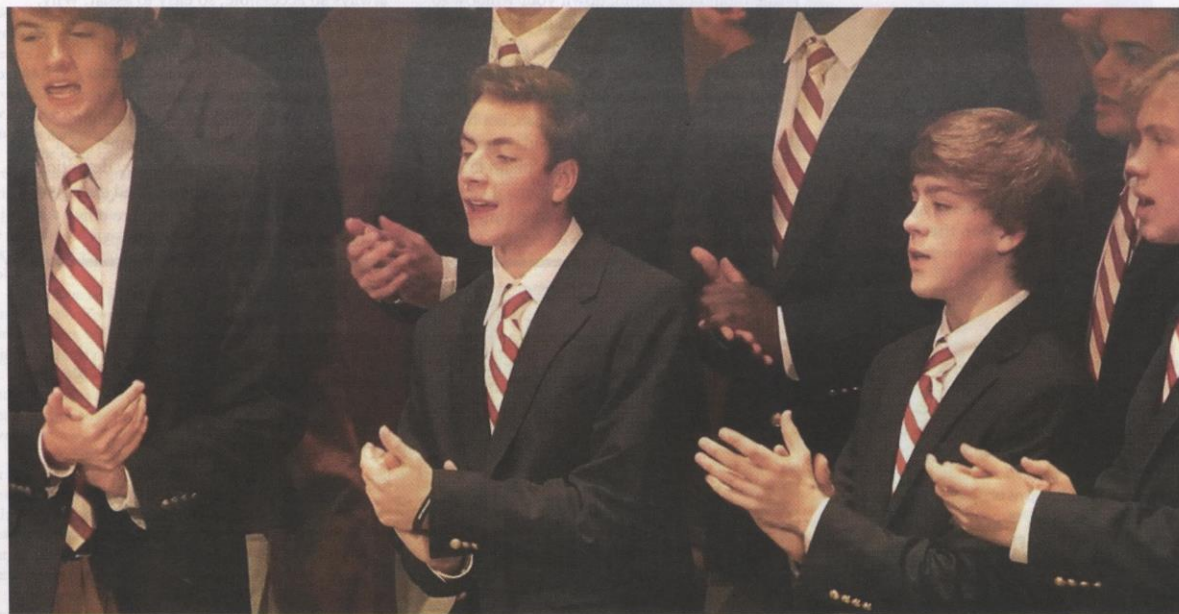
Undoubtedly the MBA choral department has improved significantly over the last five years. With a new music facility in the Davis Building and a dedicated leader in Mr. Smyth, the MBA choirs are poised to achieve even higher levels of excellence in the years to come. There is always a need for singers, and Mr. Smyth encourages anyone interested in singing to join a choir.



SUIT AND (BOW)TIE: Singers (from left to right) Hayes Alley ('17), Andrew Porter ('15) and John Triplett ('15) representing MBA at Midstate. PHOTO: MBA CHOIR

maybe Hill Singers.

The final high school choir is the Big Red Chorus, consisting mostly of first-year singers. Many of the guys just need an arts credit, but they want to have a good time while experiencing something new. They sing a wide variety of music from sailor songs to rock tunes to classical music in a laid-back atmosphere that encourages students to



EVERYBODY CLAP YOUR HANDS: (from left to right) John Yoder ('14), Zac Jernigan ('16), Davis Voecks ('16) and Nicholas Heim ('15), complete with matching ties, lead the group in singing a clap-along tune. PHOTO: MBA CHOIR

Dashing and Delicious: Four Meals to Satisfy Your Hunger and Get You on Your Way

By John Fioravanti
Staff Writer

To survive on the Hill, one has to balance a hefty load of academics, exhausting athletics, and the never-ending quest of becoming a gentleman. More importantly, however, is eating right -- or rather, eating the right way to spike your blood sugar and crash into a nap before your next class is most important.

That nap needs to be fairly lengthy, so you must avoid the long lines at the hot bar. The pizza is quick, but as Peter Taylor, *Bell Ringer* editor, says, "The pizza here used to be consistently good, but the hasty preparation and chunky tomato sauce prohibits excellence -- something we strive for at all of our affairs here on the Hill."

Avoid the pizza and avoid the hot line, and you are left with salads, soups, sandwiches, and sweets. To help you master the art of creating your own meals, I'm going to arm you with a few killer recipes.

Chicken Caesar Salad

On occasion, one sees Caesar Salad lovers at the salad bar, but one thing they always seem to

forget is chicken, the perfect complement. Next time, take your salad to the sandwich line and grab a few chicken breast strips. Grill them until they're sizzling hot and combine, taking your salad from blasé greens to hearty feast.

The Roast Beef Sandwich

I'm truly surprised I've never seen this creation before. The roast beef sandwich is the epitome of a manly,

meaty meal. Take two slices of whole-grain wheat and pile on the roast beef and provolone cheese. Then grill it on the panini press for a minute or two until cheese is running down the sides. To finish, top it with mayo and lettuce. You won't be disappointed.

Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup

We love our favorite soup and sandwich combination, but sometimes

the offering from the hot line doesn't hit quite hard enough. Take your choice of bread and layer it with cheese. Four slices will work in a pinch, but five or six leave a more satisfying feeling come eighth period. Put that baby on the panini press and wait for a minute or two. Mind yourself when you pick it up -- I've had the bread slide off the cheese. Then grab yourself a hot cup of tomato soup laced with Tabasco and dip away!

Lazy Day Cobbler with Vanilla Ice Cream

Rarely, the schedules for stocking foods lineup for this perfect combination. Warm peach cobbler topped with vanilla bean ice cream. I really don't need to say much more than that.

Warm Chocolate Chip Cookie Ice Cream

It's a beautiful day on the Hill when there are chocolate chip cookies and ice cream. Many eat the two together, but everyone forgets the splendor of the panini press. Warm those cookies, plop on that ice cream, and enjoy.



GRILL SERGEANTS: What will MBA student chefs cook up on the panini press next?

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Bachelor/Bachelorette school rewards ANYTIME REUNIONS

Nashville Chicken is Feelin' the Heat...In a Good Way

Choosing a hot chicken destination is unthinkableably difficult, so Bell Ringer food investigator Joseph Scowden visited eight of them.

By Joseph Scowden
Chicken Connoisseur

Recently, there has been a boom of hot chicken places in Nashville. Most Nashvillians only know of a few big name Hot Chicken places, i.e. Hattie B's. Few really know the extent to which Nashville has centered itself around Hot Chicken. To find out the quantity and quality of these restaurants, members of *The Bell Ringer* visited eight Hot Chicken places in Nashville and judged them based on, of course, the hot chicken and other factors such as price and general environment of the restaurant.

1. Prince's Hot Chicken Shack -- Coming in at the number one spot is the legendary, the original, and the oh-so-tasty Prince's Hot Chicken Shack. As the original Hot Chicken spot in Nashville, it certainly lives up to its name, with chicken that just dances on the taste buds. The skin, crunchy as a potato chip, is full of flavor and spice, along with the never-dry meat — meat that can't be forgotten by anyone who eats it. If you have not been to Prince's yet, I recommend it as my top choice of Hot Chicken.



2. Pepperfire Hot Chicken -- A restaurant with a very fitting name, Pepperfire Hot Chicken is the most unique hot chicken of the bunch. Unlike Prince's or Hattie B's, its spice is more grain-based instead of flour-heavy, making its skin thinner yet more flavorful. But what Pepperfire is truly known for is the Tenders Royale, a deep-fried pepperjack grilled cheese topped with a heaping load of flaming tenders. This glorious combination of two of America's favorite foods lands Pepperfire at the number two spot.

3. Hattie B's -- With the reputation of the most "hip" hot chicken joint in Nashville, Hattie B's Hot Chicken arrives at our third spot. Though it was very close to making number one, it wasn't quite at Prince's level, simply because of the chicken. The spice, consistently hot upon request, just stops at the skin. When the eater bites through the skin, all that is left is unflavored chicken. Despite this problem, their sides greatly complement their main dishes, especially their bacon grits (only served on Sundays). Also, they have some very cool hats. Overall, Hattie B's is a very respectable Hot Chicken restaurant well deserving of being in the top 8.

4. 400 Degrees -- Located in the heart of Downtown Nashville, 400 degrees is a homestyle hot chicken place that takes pride in all of its dishes. The cheapest restaurant on our list, 400 degrees takes its time with its chicken. Calling in your order is your best bet. Their chicken is slightly inconsistent in moisture, but it is still a good choice if you are near. But they are truly known for their hot pork chop. Coming in a whopping five dollars, this whopper of a pork chop is fried to perfection and slices like butter when bitten into. If you are a fan of pork chop, put 400 degrees on the top of your list.

5. Bolton's -- The first Hot Chicken restaurant that I ever went to, Bolton's has a warm spot in my heart, mainly because of the characters that work there. This family-owned restaurant, with two locations, is very friendly to all of its customers, whether a hot chicken usual or a newbie. The only reason it's not higher on the list is because of their very inconsistent spice. Known as the spiciest hot chicken in Nashville, you never really know how spicy your chicken will be until you take that first bite. But I guess they can put anything that they want to on the chicken considering that when you order, you have to read and agree to terms and conditions, putting your general health into your own hands.



6. Hot Stuff -- Known to some people in the Hot Chicken community as the best hot chicken place in the city, Hot Stuff is simply not on par with the others. Its skin, more chewy than crunchy, surrounds a usually moist meat with good spice. If you go, make sure to get their homemade fruit tea, for it is the only glue that holds this restaurant together.

7. Helen's Hot Chicken -- One of the newest Hot Chicken places in town, Helen's Hot Chicken has a ways to go if they want to be at the top. Its spice, which has no true coloration, is not unique to the restaurant. It just tastes like a spice that anyone buys at the store. Also, they need to try and avoid freezing their chicken before cooking, because it takes away a lot of the flavor of the holy meat. I would recommend going somewhere else before Helen's.



Honorary Hot Chicken Restaurant: Brotha Z's Wang Shack -- Even though Brotha Z's is not a Hot Chicken joint, it certainly deserves some appreciation for having the best wings in Nashville. Behind their inexpensive prices and epic wings comes Brotha Z himself, who works there with his family. He will greet you with a large smile, some great stories, and maybe a free wing if you are nice. If you want a stellar wing, there is nowhere else you should go than Brotha Z's. It is truly an honorary Hot Chicken Restaurant.



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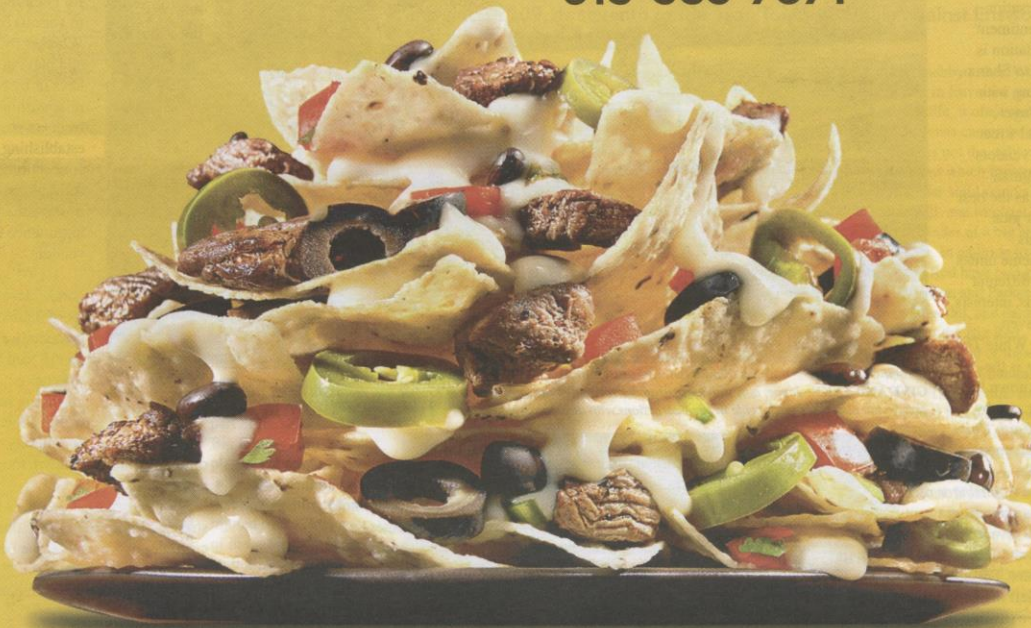
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SCOTT PORTIS, CLASS OF '84
MCCLAIN PORTIS, CLASS OF '19

Be a Contributor, Have Faith in Community

By Aaron Kaplan
Editor-in-Chief

"I'm a people person," said Sharon, a *Contributor* vendor stationed at the Kroger in Green Hills, where she has been selling papers for about six years. "We're just like one big family out here."

Six years ago, Sharon heard about *The Contributor* through a friend, and her life has been better for it ever since. "It's more or less kept food in my stomach, a roof over my head, clothes on my back," she told *The Bell Ringer*.

Her positive experience has been defined not only by the tangible resources it has allowed her, but by the interactions she shares with the local community—the people who choose to roll down their windows and strike up a conversation. And this sentiment and appreciation is not unique to Sharon. When talking with *The Bell Ringer*, several local street newspaper vendors cited this human interaction as the best part of their jobs.

This common theme unites vendors of different backgrounds, interests, goals, and even employers. While *The Contributor* is the most well known local street paper, one by the title of *Faith Unity* is on the rise amongst local sellers.

The Contributor recently increased its price from twenty-five cents to seventy-five cents for distributors and from one to two dollars for consumers. This increase in cost to vendors left many discontented and prompted a transition to *Faith Unity*, which vendors can purchase for thirty cents per copy.

Jamie, a vendor located on Harding across the intersection from Pinnacle, sold *The Contributor* for two-and-a-half years before making the switch to *Faith Unity*. Jamie expressed frustration at *The Contributor*'s price hike: "They can go fly a kite. I couldn't care less what they do. They're losing vendors left and right [because of the new price]."

Jamie's rationale brings up a significant concern for other vendors like her. When money is scarce, it makes sense for vendors not to want to

shell out more money for a paper that could put them at greater risk should the papers not sell. Even though *The Contributor* offers a greater profit margin, it is more difficult to sell two-dollar papers, as the one-dollar price is significantly more convenient and allows for simpler transactions. For people like Jamie, who arrives to work at 6:15 AM on the weekdays and 6:30 AM on the weekends, short-term benefit is a priority.

"I'm not gonna pay seventy-five cents a copy when I can get these for thirty cents."

Jamie takes great pride and

employed by *The Contributor*, John purchases his papers from other sellers who buy them directly from the respective producers themselves. When buying *The Contributor*, for example, John will round up to pay one dollar (from seventy-five cents) in order to compensate for the other sellers' making the trip to purchase the papers initially.

Like Jamie, John cited a disappointment with the management of *The Contributor* as a reason for his severing ties with them. He doesn't understand, for example, why the paper price had to jump fifty cents instead

if they're doing this, they're busy doing this, and they stay out of trouble."

When he gets his disability and finishes selling papers, John said, "I'm gonna finish writing my music and try to get something published." John, a Music City native, told *The Bell Ringer* that he has been writing music for thirty-one years and has been interested in music since the age of six or seven, when he fondly remembers listening to "Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport," among other songs. He then proceeded to his backpack and brought out his music binder, which was divided by song and included his hand-written lyrics, which

accompany his piano playing. John proudly pointed out his songs and sang parts of a couple of his songs to demonstrate.

John's passion for music follows the trend of an appreciation for communication in various forms. Whether by singing and playing piano keys or by building relationships with frequent customers, establishing connections with surrounding people is of resounding importance to the vendors.

"I've really gotten close to a lot of them, really, practically all of them," said Sharon, who has enjoyed a gratifying relationship with the local community. "A lot

of them honk going down the road and wave."

When Sharon goes a long stretch without seeing a frequent customer or vice versa, she becomes concerned (and vice versa). "It's both ways. They worry about me, and I worry about them."

Whoever the vendor, whatever the paper, the impact of rolling down your window goes beyond the monetary amount you hold out. Strike up a conversation about your passions, their passions, anything, as both parties are bound to be positively influenced by open discussion and a community that knows no bounds.



GIVE AND TAKE: Jamie, a "Faith Unity" vendor located at the intersection of Kenner Ave. and Harding Rd., needs the sales income to survive but also takes great pride in her interactions with those around her.

PHOTO BY AARON KAPLAN/BR

enjoyment in her work and, like others, particularly appreciates the opportunity to interact with others.

"You get to communicate and socialize with so many different kinds of people," she said, mentioning specifically that sometimes she encounters foreigners with unique accents. From her post, Jamie watches people go in and out of the convenience store across the street and has seen several car wrecks—all part of the experience.

"It's like God called me to do it, though," said Jamie, who has bounced back from six years of crack and alcohol. "I don't miss nothing about it. I don't do nothing anymore."

John sells papers across the intersection from Jamie. His situation is a little less clear-cut. John sells both *The Contributor* and *Faith Unity*, and takes care of his post by cleaning up tree branches in the grassy area. As an independent seller previously

of an initial twenty-five. Despite his frustration, John mentioned that he is making efforts not to hold grudges and to control any anger he has.

John, initially broke and smoking cigarette butts off the street, joined *The Contributor* around when it started. While spending the night at a church, John noticed a young man with a large wad of cash "all piled up" and asked the man where he had gotten it. Learning that the young man had earned the money selling *The Contributor*, John went ahead and signed up.

"It was a lot easier then than it is now. It's really hard now (to get a badge)," said John, who explained that there is an interview process before one can sell *The Contributor*.

When asked if he believes that the street newspapers are effective in helping Nashville's homeless, John said that they often are. In many ways, they are effective in keeping vendors from otherwise doing criminal things: "But

EYES ON THE PRIZE



TONIGHT'S GAME

MBA vs. Ensworth

TSSAA DII-AA State Championship

7:00 PM CT

SEASON SCHEDULE

W 26-7 @ Christian Brothers

W 42-6 vs. Hamilton

L 20-23 @ Baylor

W 49-40 vs. Pearl Cohn

W 52-44 @ Brentwood Acad.

W 42-20 @ Millington

L 44-50 vs. Ensworth (OT)

W 21-17 vs. Father Ryan

W 42-7 vs. JPII

W 58-41 vs. McCallie

PLAYOFFS

BYE

W 43-14 vs. McCallie

W 31-29 vs. Baylor

TOP LEFT: Big Red Kicker Davis Luster ('15) celebrates during MBA's regular season matchup against Ensworth.

TOP CENTER: Cole Euverard, recipient of the Mr. Football award this Monday, under center for the Big Red.

BOTTOM CENTER: Phelps Gambill ('16) runs a fumble into the endzone for a touchdown against Ensworth.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

Things have come full circle for the Class of 2015, which hasn't seen the Big Red featured in a state title football game since 2009, its seventh grade year. Tonight's finale against Ensworth is primed for a storybook finish.

By John Triplett
Features Editor

After a season of many hard-fought victories, the Big Red have finally reached their goal: The State Championship. Though this is in itself an amazing achievement, the journey which brought the team here is not to be forgotten.

The second half of this season saw the Big Red play some of their best football of the season. Aside from the close overtime loss to Ensworth, the Big Red won all of their games in the second half of the season. Despite a wave of injuries which hurt the Big Red during this part of the season, the Big Red stepped up and played extraordinarily. In fact, many key defensive linemen were injured over the course of the season. The team's strongest defensive lineman, Harrison Lien, and senior Zach Roberts each suffered ankle injuries through the course of the season. Additionally, juniors D'On Coofer and Oronde Pendergrass both suffered injuries during the latter half of the season as well. A wave of concussions also hit the Big Red, with Derrick Tusie and Benjamin Graves suffering head injuries. Fortunately, most of these resilient athletes have healed quickly and have made an enormous impact upon the Big Red's defense during the playoffs.

Thankfully, these injuries have not hurt the Big Red, as many other

players have stepped up to fill in the gaps and keep up the high-quality play for the team. With wins over Father Ryan, Pope John Paul II, McCallie twice, and Baylor, the Big Red have had to face some very tough opponents. The Big Red's defense has especially improved from the first half of the season under leadership of seniors TJ Jefferson, Harrison Lien, Zach Roberts, Michael Lacey, and Luke Bullock.

Needless to say, the offense has kept up what it has done during the first half of the season by constant scoring and reliability. The offense simply works like a well-oiled machine. With a big, strong, dominating offensive line and the best-skilled players in the district, the

attack is not too shabby either. With a smart quarterback in Euverard and star receiver Austin Rolfe, it often seems like this part of the offense cannot be stopped either. And Rolfe is not the only main passing option from which Euverard has to choose. Other solid seniors Luke Bullock, Parks Ball, and Michael Lacey make up the remainder of a big and fast receiving core. In addition to these receivers, the Big Red have two good tight ends in Jordan Wilson and Parker Bryan, who each make big, tall, and dangerous red zone threats for the Big Red.

Now, what do all of these players have to do with the State Championship?

The last time the Big Red faced Ensworth was a very close, even matchup that ended in heartbreak for the Big Red. If the Big Red are to win this time around, they need to do the simple things correctly. The Big Red need to minimize turnovers against Ensworth, as Ensworth will capitalize on the opportunities given to them. Additionally, the team needs to minimize penalties and execute well, as any holding calls, false starts, offsides, or other penalties will hurt the Big Red very much.

Lastly, the Big Red need to always do two things: believe and focus. No matter how far ahead or how far down the Big Red are they need to always believe and focus on the task at hand, never getting distracted or complacent. If the Big Red can do all of those things, they will win the State Championship.



Big Red just do not stop. Ty Chandler, Michael Lacey, Derrick Tusie, and Cole Euverard make up a dangerous, multi-option running attack, with Lacey as the speedster, Tusie as the tough, hard-nosed runner, Chandler as the athlete, and Euverard as the deceptively quick and tough runner. The Big Red's passing

BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW

By Faris Wasim
Staff Writer

Winter is approaching, and that means basketball season is starting. This season is shaping up to be an interesting one, with the varsity team heavy on juniors and seniors. Juniors this year include Clarke Allen, Parker Bryan, Chapman Malone, Carson Talbott, Diggs Truitt, and Jordan Wilson, with select sophomores and freshmen having the opportunity to contribute to the varsity team. Many teams in the Mid-State would have a hard time managing the loss of such a skilled senior class as the Big Red had this past year. Fortunately, this year, the team has replaced those graduates with eight senior players and one senior manager: Clay Cavallo, Jermaine Francis, John Hazen, Joe McKinney, Geoffrey Holland, Greg Quesinberry, Austin Rolfe, Richard Thornton, and manager Faris Wasim.

This year's schedule is daunting but manageable. The team starts the year off with a trip to "the 901" to take on MUS and Christian Brothers. After a game at Antioch, the Big Red attacks MICDS from St. Louis at the Curry Gymnasium and St. Benedict at Harpeth Hall to break in their fresh gym. The Christmas classics and tournaments ensue shortly after, with the team competing at the BA Classic and the Sonic Shootout. The team's first game of the 2015 calendar year will be on January 2nd against the Memphis powerhouse, Lausanne. After that, the league games

begin.

Of the league opponents, the team will see the familiar foes Father Ryan, Brentwood Academy, Baylor, and Ensworth. One of the big changes the team sees in its schedule is that every team plays every team twice, even the



Chattanooga teams. This makes the schedule a true round-robin and creates a fair way to determine seedings at the end of the year.

The projected starting lineup has Greg Quesinberry starting at point guard, Joe McKinney and Jordan Wilson as the shooting guards, Jermaine Francis as the power forward and Parker Bryan starting at center. John Hazen, Clay Cavallo, Richard Thornton, Austin



SENIORS TAKE THE WHEEL: The basketball squad will depend on seniors like Jermaine Francis (left) and Greg Quesinberry (above) to steer the team in the right direction. PHOTOS: ANDREW DUPUIS (left), BIG RED PHOTOS (above)

Rolfe and Geoffrey Holland will form the bench mob. According to Head Coach Kevin Anglin, in order to win, the team will need to "do it together." Simply put, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts."

Offensively, the team is full of great shooters. Everyone has the ability to shoot the three ball, including big men Parker Bryan, John Hazen, and Jermaine Francis. The most reliable shooter, however, is Joe McKinney, who is capable of making a shot anywhere on the court. Defensively, the long-armed Jordan Wilson, the rebounding machine Jermaine

Francis and the athletic Austin Rolfe anchor the team. The peskiest defender on the team, though, is Greg Quesinberry. Quesinberry is charged with the difficult task of guarding the opposing team's best perimeter player. When asked about this challenge, Greg responded, "The team and I are always ready to accept the challenge."

In order to win, the team will need to play together unselfishly. Though the team is full of potential, anything can happen. The team will need to put in extraordinary effort every game and practice in order to produce the results it hopes to achieve.

Bowlers With No Time to Spare on the Way to a State Championship

By Ben Coulthard
Staff Writer

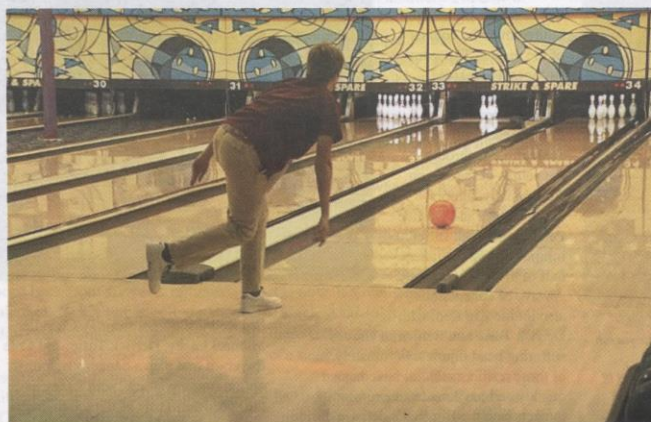
After a tough start to the season, the MBA bowling team has become competitive, with a new mindset resulting in a 5-7 record as the squad heads into the homestretch. After a tough 0-3 start against some of the most talented teams in DII-AA, including three-time state champion DCA and powerhouses USN and Father Ryan, the team underwent a location change as it moved from the now-closed Hillwood Strike and Spare to the chain's Donelson location.

Bowlers have been able to adjust to the new lanes during practice as they bowl multiple games, treating these games like actual matches. Practices do not go by without any fun, however. The team enjoys playing the "spare game" to improve picking up their spares in the odd event that one not bowl a straight strike. Hijinks are not

rare at the bowling alley. Hackysacks fly around, and it isn't odd to hear

the bowling alley jukebox playing something to will the team to victory. Since the move to Donelson,

many bowlers have bowled personal bests, including Alex Hasse ('19), Jamie Payne ('16), and Ben Coulthard ('18). Led by "El Capitano" Jackson Wooten ('16) and Juniors Grayson Fettroll ('16), Brinton Hoover ('16) and Payne, the team has four games remaining against Ezell-Harding, JPII, and Friendship Christian before the postseason starts. Highlights of the season have included Jackson Wooten winning matches against top bowlers Ross Dewey (DCA) and Donnie Turner (FCA), Brinton Hoover's unusual strikes, and team sleeves. The team looks forward to a successful end to their season and a great turnout for districts and state in January.



BOWL GAME: Jackson Wooten ('16) lets one fly at Strike & Spare, no longer the team's practice facility. PHOTO: BIG RED PHOTOS

Swimmers Look to Take Advantage of New Facility, Win State

By Aaron Kaplan
Editor-in-Chief

The MBA swimming program is ready to defend its regional championship and pursue a state championship as well. Equipped with a brand new practice facility, the team is now able to practice at more practical times and prepare itself properly for the challenges ahead.

This summer, the MBA Athletic Department reached an agreement with the Boost Fit Club right off of Highway 100 to renovate the outdoor pool space and convert it to a winter-friendly swimming area. The heated pool features six lanes and is covered above and around the sides. The indoor space is equipped with lights and heaters to allow for practicing during the dark winter hours.

The team practices five days a week from four to six in the afternoon. A bus transports swimmers from MBA to Boost every day, but driving is the preferable means or transportation for the older team members. Junior School swimmers practice simultaneously but finish earlier than the high school team.

This year's team features a sturdy mix of veterans and newcomers from all grade levels. Look for Chatham

Dobbs ('15), Stephen Sullivan ('15), Cole Jones ('15), Ryan Carpenter ('16), Matthew Robbins ('16), and Hudson Dobbs ('17) to be among the team's fastest contributors. Coaches Nathan Phillips and James Loveless will continue at the helm with support from Coaches Matt Hutton and Elizabeth Greenberg, who will be primarily coaching the Junior School.

The Big Red has already competed in two meets this season, taking home victories from both. On October 23rd, MBA traveled to Oakland's pool and won a close meet 91 - 78 despite missing a number of swimmers to other fall athletic commitments.

December 4th marked MBA's second dual meet victory of the season, as the Big Red defeated Ravenwood 92 - 77 at the Williamson County Indoor Sports Complex. MBA's next meet will be on December 12th at Ensworth.

Big Red swimmers are working hard to earn qualifying times in their respective races. The regional meet will be held at the Centennial Sportsplex on January 30th, followed by the state championship in Knoxville at the University of Tennessee from February 13th-14th.



DOBBS LEGACY: Hudson Dobbs ('17) swims the backstroke at last year's regional meet. Dobbs ended up reaching the finals at the state championship meet in the stroke.

NEW FACILITY, NEW MINDSET: The pool covering (before its completion) at Boost Fit Club, the new home to the MBA swimming program. **PHOTO: NATHAN PHILLIPS**



Mat Pups Ready to Do Work

By Joseph Scowden
Staff Writer

Lying in the depths of the Currey Gymnasium, adjacent to the varsity locker room and the weight room, there is another room. A room said to house the sweatiest of the sweatiest, the toughest

of the tough, and the smelliest of the smelliest. This is where the wrestlers lurk. Wrestling is known as one of the most intense and historic sport programs at MBA, and wrestlers pride themselves on the effort that they put in during practice leading up to the many challenging tournaments and matches this season.

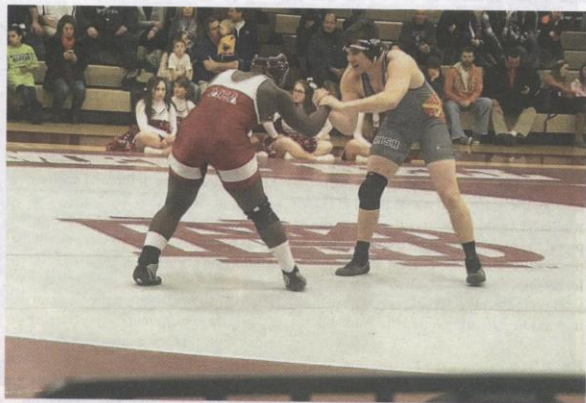
Last season, the Big Red

Wrestlers came home from the TSSAA Individual State Tournament with nine wrestlers, including graduated seniors Stephen Johnson ('14) and Ridley Wills ('14) placing in the top six in their weight class, and six of those nine placing in the top three, including Junior D'On Cooper bringing home the first place title. D'On's impressive run in the state tournament, in the words of Head Coach Frank Simpson, was due to his "ability to learn after every match he competed in. He had lost to every single one of the top eight finishers at least once throughout the season, and many of them were only beaten by D'On once—in the State Tournament." This Cinderella story of his winning State is what will lift his attitude and his confidence coming into the 2014-15 season.

But last season is in the past in the eyes of the coaching staff and of the wrestlers. What is in their minds now is the tough schedule that is ahead of them, including the Black Horse tournament in Memphis, the South Eastern Prep Slams in Atlanta, Senior Night vs. Brentwood Academy, and of course, the highly anticipated Father Ryan match. Hosted by Father Ryan, the likely preseason number one this year, this match will be intense, with a single spotlight shining on the center mat.

Senior leaders Sam Bellet ('15) and Blake Solarek ('15) are, in coach Simpson's mind, "the key to the lineup." They are both talented wrestlers who want to win a state championship as much as anybody in the state. Also, sophomore studs Michael and Gabriel Elkin will be important to the lineup, even though they will be starting off the season at a higher weight class, while hopefully dropping down by the end of the season. Coach Simpson, along with the rest of the coaching staff, is anticipating a huge year from Senior Ben Kelly ('15), who has devoted his whole year to wrestling, and has, according to Coach Simpson the Elder, "taken great strides since the State Championship, and expects nothing less of himself than to win this year." Also, Senior Cole Euverard ('15) and Junior John Kelly ('16) are set to have excellent seasons once they finish the football season.

This season of wrestling will certainly be an exciting one, as practice has just begun and expectations are being established to go forward into the season as confidently as possible, hoping to win as many matches as possible. As said by the great Coach Simpson the Elder, "Wrestling is like a chess match. To win, you just have to put all the little pieces in the right spot." Hopefully, MBA wrestling will checkmate all of its opponents this season.



GOING BACK FOR MORE: D'On Cooper ('16) will chase a second consecutive individual state title. **PHOTO: BIG RED PHOTOS**

#73 JASHON ROBERTSON

Class of 2014 graduate makes leap into starting lineup of bowl-bound Tennessee Volunteers.

By Joseph Scowden
Staff Writer

Becoming a starter at a Division I SEC football program is not easy, and MBA is lucky to have such a great student-athlete as Jashon Robertson ('14) representing the Big Red at the next level. This past week, Joseph Scowden ('16) caught up with Jashon to see how he is adjusting to college life.

Bell Ringer: Before training camp, was there indication that the coaches wanted you on offense?

Jashon Robertson: When I committed to UT, the coaches told me that there would be a chance that I could be playing offense or defense, just depending on where the depth was or wasn't. Then Coach Jones told me before camp to play offense for two days just to see how it went, and it went well. I just told Coach that I would play wherever he wanted me to help the team, and Coach Jones put me on the offensive line.

BR: Going into camp, were you expecting that you were going to earn the starting position at right guard?

JR: Well, when I decided to play college football, I had two goals: the first was to start wherever I would play as a Freshman, and the second was to be a Freshman All-American. Obviously, one has been achieved, and I am just trying to get the other one as a personal goal.

BR: Take me through one of your days as a college football player.

JR: First, I wake up at 6:30 in the morning and go get treatment for whatever is bothering me. Then, if it's Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, I go to class from 8:00 to 12:05, then I eat lunch. I'll watch and study up on film, have a position meeting, a team meeting, practice from about 4:15 to 6:15, lift from 6:15-7:00, eat dinner, homework, then go to bed and do it all over again.

BR: Are there differences between your approach your position in high school football and your approach now in college football?

JR: My approach has never changed. I just believe that I have worked harder

than the person who I am going against and that I can dominate them every single play, because you are not going to win every snap. But if they feel you hit them every snap, they will eventually break, and that is when you know you have won.

BR: Are there any coaching similarities between Coach Euerard and Coach Jones?

JR: The biggest similarity is that they care about their players, on and off the football field. They are both great play callers, and they both bring intensity to whatever the situation is, whether it is the meeting room or the sideline itself.

BR: What do you miss most about MBA?

JR: I miss those Friday nights and being able to play with guys I grew up with and went to school with, having one common goal, and not having to think about college football.

BR: How is the college life? How is it different from MBA?

JR: It's completely different from MBA, because academically, it is not nearly as hard. But other than that, it's just regular college life. The vibe is great, and I would not want to be anywhere else. I also love playing with a bunch of guys from Middle Tennessee, and I love representing the state of Tennessee as much as possible.

BR: How's the food?

JR: The food is great. There is a sports grill, we call it Ole' Smokies, under the complex, where we have most of our meals. For example, after the South Carolina game we had a winners' dinner of steak, crab legs, brownies, and caramel crisp with ice cream. This great food just

JR: Oh yes. If the team makes it, I will try my hardest to make the game.

BR: Do you think that you will stay at right guard for the rest of your career at UT?

JR: I'm trying out a few positions. I'm already practicing snapping, so hopefully I can try to play right guard, left guard, and center in my career.

BR: What is it like playing at Neyland Stadium?

JR: The whole experience is priceless. You can't talk about Neyland Stadium without talking about the Vol Walk, how everyone comes out to show you love before you go into the stadium. It's a sacred feeling, something that you can't take for granted.

BR: In terms of your journey at MBA, have you had to use any of your skills that learned at MBA in college?

JR: I have to say that the coaching staff, Coach Brock and Coach Eu, have prepared me so well for college football. You don't realize how great our football program is until you see the other rookies and how they don't really have the right coaching. Coach Brown and Coach Barclay also taught me very well to put me in the best position to succeed in college.

BR: Is there anything you want to tell the football players at MBA?

JR: Football is an opportunity, a great one at that, and just enjoy it. Enjoy playing on Friday night, embrace the memories that you make with your friends. Never lose sight of the fact that you get to play, you get to work hard, you get to lift weights. Embrace it as much as you can.



LET THEM EAT CAKE: Jashon Robertson ('14) puts on his University of Tennessee hat as part of last spring's athletic signing ceremony.

BIG RED PHOTOS

Finally...a Successful Nashville Football Team

By John Triplett
Features Editor

After suffering through many painful years of watching the Titans and Vanderbilt, *The Bell Ringer* has done some investigating and may have found a new football team which will not cause as much anguish as the previous two. The Nashville Venom are a part of a new indoor football league called the PIFL (Professional Indoor Football League), a league similar to the Arena Football League of a few years ago, in which the Nashville Kats played from 1997 to 2001 and again from 2005 to 2007. They are one of eight franchises in the Professional Indoor Football League. In November, 2012, it was announced that the Venom would be the eighth and final expansion team of the Professional Indoor Football League for the 2014 season. A few days after being introduced, it was announced by Managing Partner Jeff Knight that Billy Back would be the first coach in Venom history. The Venom began their inaugural season on March 29, 2014, in Huntsville, Alabama against the Alabama Hammers. Their first home game was on April 5, against the Harrisburg Stampede.

The Venom are members of the American Conference, which also consists of the Alabama Hammers, the

Albany Panthers, and the Columbus Lions. The team began play in 2014 as an expansion team at Nashville Municipal Auditorium. In an attempt to avoid competing with the NFL, the PIFL schedules their games starting in late March and running until mid-July. This schedule makes it much more likely for football fans to come out to these games in their respective cities because of the absence of NFL football during those seasons.

Although the players and teams in this league may be of much lower quality than that of college football and the NFL, it is still quite fun to watch. With a field of half the size and the ability to use padded walls, the games are often high-scoring. The team is also quite good. The Venom finished the regular season 10-2, the best record in the league, and won the American Conference regular season title. Their 9 All-PIFL selected players were the most of any team. In the American Conference Championship Game, the Venom defeated the Columbus Lions 44-39 to advance to PIFL Cup III. On July 12, 2014, the Venom won their first PIFL Cup

Championship, defeating the Lehigh Valley Seahawks 64-43.

If any sports or football lovers are craving some fun, fast-paced football in the spring or summer, the Nashville Venom provide an affordable, close, and easy option. They just might be the next big attraction in Nashville if they, and the league, survive long

enough to do so. The Nashville Kats were in a similar position, but unfortunately they and their league did not survive. Thus, they stopped playing after a few years. Let's not let that happen again. If there's nothing to do on a late spring afternoon, drop by the Municipal Auditorium and see what's up. It may be better than you expect.



SPRINT TO SUCCESS: The Nashville Venom have defied local trends by putting a quality football team on the turf.
PHOTO: MATTEO SIDDIQ/NASHVILLE SPORTS NETWORK

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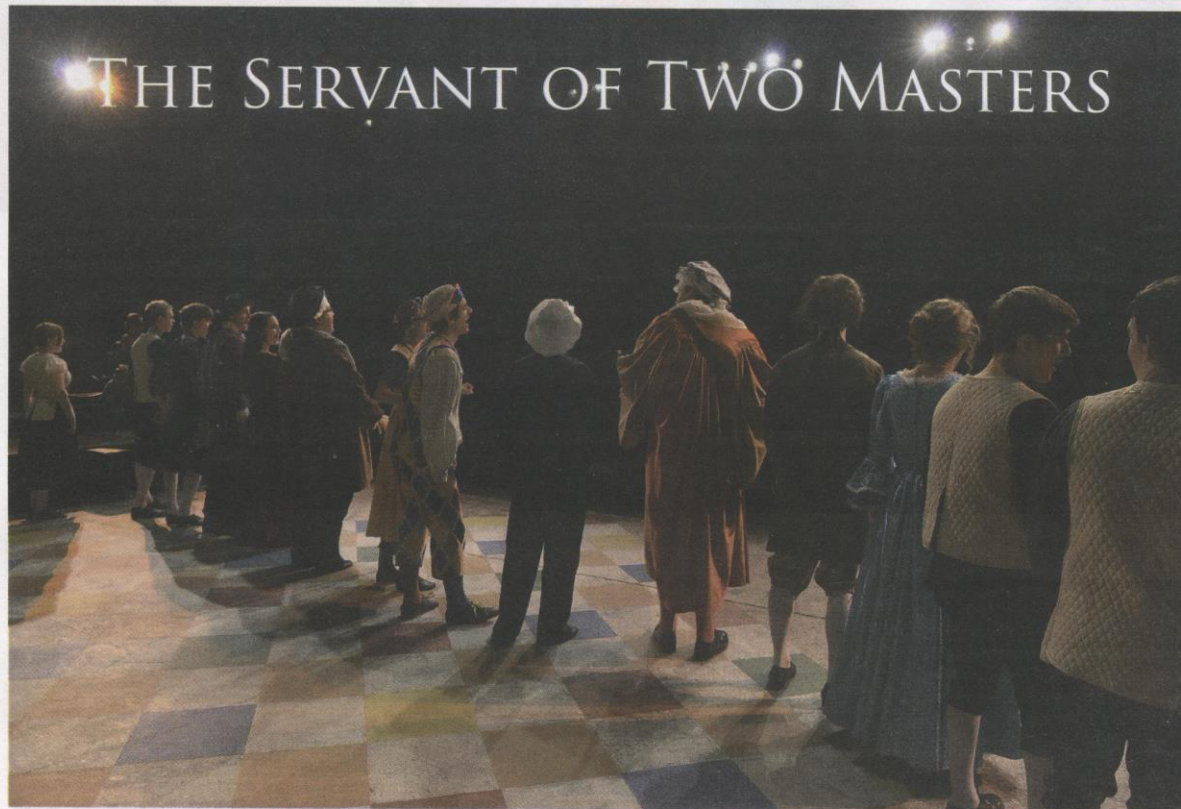
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By Peter Taylor
Asst. Entertainment Editor

Coming hot on the heels of August's Harpeth Hall musical collaboration of *Damn Yankees* and Dr. Seay's competition one-act *The Fifth Sun*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, an 18th century comedy by Carlo Goldoni Renna is the year's first full-length straight show and one of the funniest and most unique shows to ever be put on at MBA.

The plot of the play revolves around the ensuing hijinks surrounding the attempts of a servant named

Truffaldino, played by the veteran MBA thespian Jess Darnell '15, to serve two masters, Frederigo Rigatoni (Harpeth Hall's Eliza Trost) and Florendo (Neal Hawkins '15) with neither finding out about his service to the other. Additional complications stem from a misunderstanding between lovers Clarice (Harpeth Hall's Summer Kapanka) and Sylvio (Donny Abel '15) and the fact that Frederigo Rigatoni is really his sister Beatrice disguised in men's clothes in an attempt to find her lover in Venice. The play is highly amusing in the way the complications resolve themselves, and the story wraps up very nicely by the end.

The play is unique in the sense that throughout the show, the actors are partially improvising along the lines of the script. One could see the show in all four performances, and despite seeing the same story unfold, one would never truly see the same show twice. Some of



SIMPLY DAZZLING: "*The Servant of Two Masters*" not only wowed the crowd, but the cast as well.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. CAL FULLER

the improvisations turn out to be the funniest moments of the play. Another unique aspect of the play is the audience participation. Each performance has a limited audience seating of only about 100 people. Each show is therefore very intimate, with the audience members very close to the stage. Whenever certain events happen in the play, occasionally an actor will make a comment to an attendee beside him or ask one of them to hold a prop. This interaction gives the play a participatory feeling, and the audience feels almost like a part of the story.

The music adds an additional layer of humor on top of the script. Led by William Hall '16, the band, seated on stage left, underscores various moments throughout the show for comedic effect,

such as playing Aerosmith's "Dude Looks Like a Lady" when Frederigo Rigatoni is revealed to be his sister Beatrice. At intermission each night, the actors also sang snippets of various pop songs that humorously relate to their characters. This additional layer of music provides a modern twist on the 18th century play.

As anyone who has attended the play can attest, this article does no justice to the fantastic performance put on by the cast and crew. Easily one of the most unique shows to be performed at MBA in its theatrical history, *The Servant of Two Masters* will be remembered on the Hill for years to come. It may have been a risk in performing a play such as this, but risks always come with their rewards; this risk certainly has.

BEATRICE: Eliza Trost plays the part of Beatrice, a woman disguised as a man in an attempt to find her lover.



The Fifth Sun Headed to SETC

By Peter Taylor
Asst. Entertainment Editor

Every year on the Hill, many often overlook Dr. Seay's annual competition one-act, which is nestled comfortably between the joint Harpeth Hall and MBA musical at the beginning of the year and the play in late November. The one-act team performs on campus only once before travelling to the Tennessee Theater Association competition, but students and faculty who attend are always in for a treat: forty-five minutes of a condensed, well told story. This year's selection, *The Fifth Sun*, was no exception.

The work of Nicholas Patricca, MBA's fall artist-in-residence, *The Fifth Sun* chronicles the story of El Salvador's archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated as he celebrated mass. Exploring themes of martyrdom and sacrifice, the historical and political play touches upon several facets of both Christian and Mayan mythology.

When asked about the one act, Dr. Seay, the play's director, mentioned the appeal of the condensed theatrical format. The playwright, and in turn the

director and cast, must impart a succinct but substantial story to be performed in just forty-five minutes. Dr. Seay became familiar with *The Fifth Sun* ten years ago but has been waiting for the right group of performers to tackle it and is "beyond pleased" with this year's cast and performance.

Travelling to Maryville College on Friday, October 24 to perform in front of a panel of judges, the cast won second place in the Tennessee Theater Association's competition, qualifying to represent Tennessee in the spring at the Southeastern Theater Conference Festival (SETC), the United States' largest single theater event. Both James Matthews ('15) and Harpeth Hall's Eliza Trost were placed on the all-star cast list. Jess Darnell ('15) won Best Actor in the state for his portrayal of Romero, an award he also won as a sophomore for his portrayal of Frederick Treves in the 2012 competition one-act, *The Elephant Man*.

When asked about his passion for acting, Jess said that he loves "being a part of something big, putting on a performance, and being able to explore a world through the eyes of another character." He also noted the challenge of playing Romero, which he tried to

overcome by understanding Romero's motives.

The judges created a special award to honor the ensemble's work in portraying the Guardians, played by Alec Giammalvo ('15), Daniel Maynard ('15), William Hall ('16), and Donny Abel ('15). Both Dr. Seay and William Hall noted the difficulty of portraying the ensemble, which was like "a character unto itself."

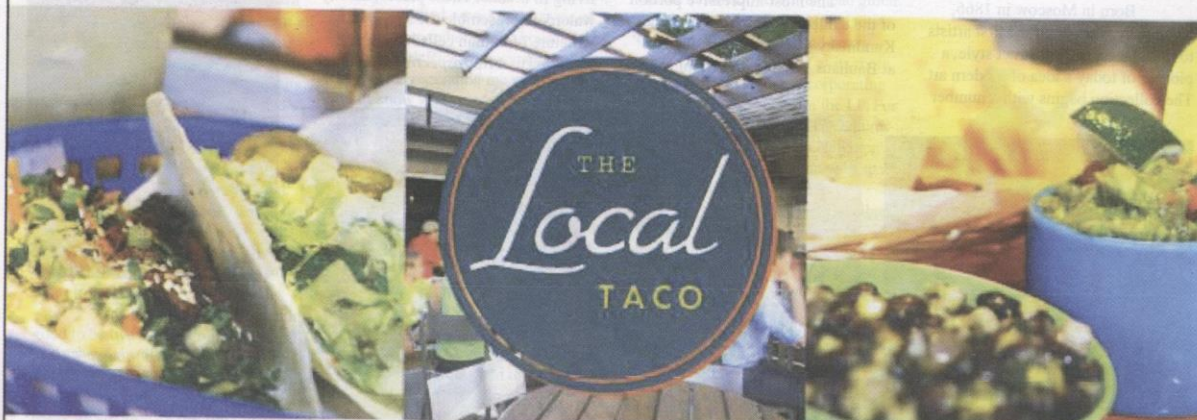
The continued success of the theater program shows that MBA consistently produces talented actors. *The Fifth Sun* is a performance of the highest caliber, and the cast is looking forward to representing MBA in the next round of competition.



WELL I'LL BE DARNED: Jess Darnell puts on another characteristically spectacular performance while playing Romero in *The Fifth Sun*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. RICK SEAY

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Kandinsky Brings International Flare to the Frist



Until January 1st, the Frist will host works by Wassily Kandinsky, many of which are normally housed in the Centre Pompidou of Paris, France.

By Harrison Wheeler
Opinions Editor

Thanks to Centre Pompidou-Paris, a diverse collection of more than 100 of Kandinsky's works is on display from September 26, 2014 to January 4, 2015 at the Frist Center. The exhibition, presented in chronological order, does an excellent job of illustrating the transformation of Kandinsky's style over time.

Born in Moscow in 1866, Kandinsky was one of the first artists to introduce a truly abstract style, a pioneer of today's idea of modern art. The collection begins with a number

of pieces from Kandinsky's residence in Munich. These works, created in the early 1900s, are clearly influenced by movements such as Symbolism, Impressionism, and Art Nouveau. The next series of works were made during the period in which Kandinsky created a spiritual enlightenment group known as "Der Blaue Reiter" ("The Blue Rider"). The works represent Kandinsky's introduction to the abstract.

The most impressive portion of the exhibit is composed of pieces Kandinsky created while teaching at Bauhaus, a noted art school in

Weimar, Germany. The works highlight the geometric style that became characteristic of Kandinsky. These pieces, while seemingly simple, are complex compositions of lines, grids, and shapes that create a definite architectural tone.

Unfortunately, with the rise of Nazism, Bauhaus closed and Kandinsky was forced to relocate to Paris. The exhibit ends with a number of works that Kandinsky created while living in France. These pieces, mostly watercolor, resemble the shape and structure of human cells. Overall, *Kandinsky: A Retrospective* is a superb

collection that illustrates the major milestones of the artist's career.

While the Frist is home to some of Nashville's most established collections, a number of small galleries are making a name for themselves in the Nashville art scene. If the exhibit sounds interesting, visit the Arcade district downtown to check out Nashville's best galleries. On the first Saturday of every month, the Arcade is home to an impressive art crawl. One of the featured galleries, Rymer, currently has an exhibition featuring pieces made entirely from iPods. Whether you prefer traditional art, contemporary art, or something in between, the many facets of Nashville's scene are sure to quench your artistic thirst.



BOTTOM LEFT: Wassily Kandinsky's career traversed many countries and global conflicts.
(PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA)

BOTTOM CENTER: Kandinsky's "Black Grid" (1922) demonstrates a focus on structured abstraction.
(PHOTO: FRISTCENTER.ORG)

HEADER PHOTOS:
TUCK-HINTON.ORG (LEFT)
ARTRIBUNE.COM (RIGHT)

Greensky Bluegrass Likes Puns, Multiple Genres

By Matt Miccioli
Associate Editor

If *Sorrows Swim*, the September release from Greensky Bluegrass, is the group's most refined record to date. Accompanying the twelve-track album is a nationwide tour, including a stop at Nashville's Marathon Music Works on January 16th.

The five Kalamazoo natives found national recognition in 2006 with a win at the Telluride Bluegrass festival. Crossing the traditional limits of the bluegrass genre into the realm of "jam-grass," Greensky's 2011 release *Handguns* solidified the group's reputation for fast picking and long, progressive solos.

Sorrows, however, is more strategic with the lengthy acoustic odysseys. Anders Beck continues to drive the high-energy live performances and studio improvisation with his dobro. It is the increased emphasis on Hoffman's lyrics, though, that rounds out the album. His raw, haunting choruses give the songs a richer, more complete sound.

In characterizing the continued experimentation with jam rock and folk elements, Hoffman states, "I would love to see some more of that crossover to fans [...] I want people to not be afraid that we are a bluegrass band, so that they will

actually sink in and realize they like it."

The first track, "Windshield," quickly shows the new direction of the album. Michael Bont's finger-picking on the banjo and Mike Duval's upright bass licks provide a steady, if unsurprising, foundation for Beck's dobro riffing. Hoffman's lyrics, though, are what make this song one of the best of the album. "Someone better hide the children, I think things are getting out of hand," he howls in the crescendo.

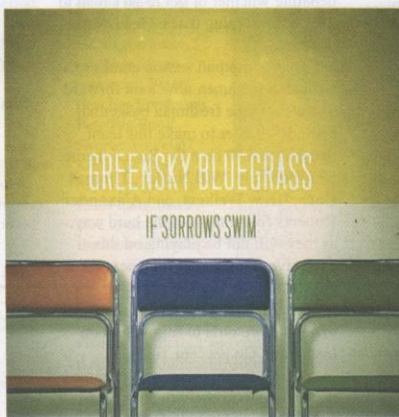
"Burn Them" picks up where "Windshield" ends. Hoffman's chorus, "What if sorrows swim? Good God, we gonna need to burn them," gives the album its title and charges the piece, tying together frenetic solos from both Hoffman and guitarist Dave Bruzza and presenting the band's commentary on the efficacy of drowning one's sorrows.

The tracks "A Letter to Seymour" and "In Control" are both written by Bruzza and feature the guitarist's more traditional, country-influenced vocals. Although decent songs on their own, they are the outliers of the album, failing to deliver the same punch as the other tracks.

"The Four" and "Worried About the Weather" bring back more of the traditional Greensky song structure from *Handguns*. Bruzza's twangy guitar

"Kerosene" and "Demons" are the album's real barnburners. Hoffman howls, "Wash my hands in kerosene" as Bruzza and Bont lead the high-speed instrumental charge. "Wings for Wheels" is slower paced than "Demons," transitioning into the more mellow final tracks of the album, "Leap Year" and "Just Listening," which bring the listener back down.

Continuing to meld genres and styles within a single album, the group has shown not only that it can give memorable, high-energy live performances, but also that it can create a polished product in the studio. Hoffman's larger role in songwriting and increased vocal freedom have had an undeniable impact on the music. Greensky Bluegrass' continued experimentation leaves little to disappoint on *If Sorrows Swim*.



licks back Hoffman's vocals, but the two take a backseat to Bont and Beck on the banjo and dobro, respectively.

RATING: 4.75/5 Waffles



The Endless River: Pink Floyd's Farewell Album

By Steve Wood
Entertainment Editor

Perhaps the most well-known psychedelic/progressive rock band of all time, Pink Floyd has now released its final album, *The Endless River*, marking the band's end nearly 50 years after its formation. The album is Pink Floyd's first since *The Division Bell* (1994), and much of its content was actually recorded in 1993 with the intention of releasing an ambient instrumental album.

After the death of keyboardist Rick Wright in 2008, guitarist David Gilmour resurrected the 20 hours of tapes from 1993 recording sessions.

"I realized there was something good to be tweaked out of all this stuff," said Gilmour in an interview with *Rolling Stone*. Gilmour then returned to the studio with drummer Nick Mason to cut an album with the 1993 material, overdubbing new parts and arranging the music into four instrumental sections. Original Pink Floyd singer and songwriter Roger Waters, who left the band in 1985, was not included in the making of *The Endless River*.

Gilmour and Mason produced this album as a tribute to Wright, whose keyboard and synthesizer talent was

sometimes overshadowed by Gilmour's heavy lead guitar sound. Referring to the final recording sessions in 1993, Gilmour said: "The music [...] is from those final sessions, the three of us playing together on the houseboat Astoria with Rick's idiosyncratic keyboards reminding me now that you don't know what you've got until it's gone."

The Endless River is almost entirely instrumental, saving vocals for the final track, "Louder Than Words." Pink Floyd is famous for the ethereal sonic landscapes the band creates in its music, providing a vivid stereo image best experienced through headphones. Take, for example, *Dark Side of the Moon* (1973), Pink Floyd's most well-known album and one of the best-selling albums of all time: the album is intended to be listened to from front to back, as each song flows seamlessly from one to the next.

Like *Dark Side of the Moon*, Pink Floyd's latest album flows smoothly from start to finish, incorporating a number of very familiar sounds. The second song, "It's What We Do," harkens back to Pink Floyd's "Shine On You Crazy Diamond" and other songs from *Wish You Were Here* (1975). Many of the songs on *Endless*

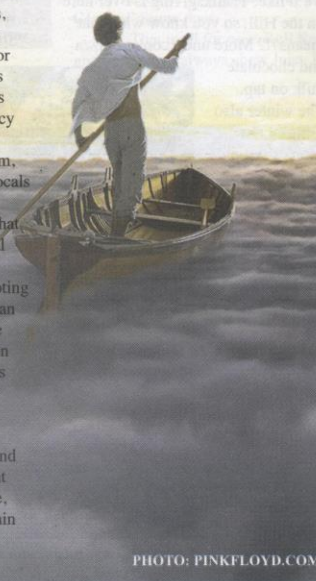
River, such as "Sum," "Anisina," "Allons-y," "Talkin' Hawkin'," and "Louder Than Words" feature Gilmour's classic smooth, overdriven lead guitar.

Though often inclined to create mellow, dreamy, and heavy music, Pink Floyd is still, at its roots, an experimental band, incorporating a wide range of sounds on the LP. For example, "Talkin' Hawkin'" features famous physicist Stephen Hawking's voice layered and mixed in with spacy synthesizers and guitar riffs.

In the final song in the album, "Louder Than Words," Gilmour's vocals mark the end of the Pink Floyd era. Though the lyrics may seem somewhat cheesy, the song brings a sentimental conclusion to the band, referencing arguments amongst the group but noting that Pink Floyd's music is greater than any single member of the band: "We bitch and we fight / Dis each other on sight / But this thing we do [...] / It's louder than words."

The Endless River is by no means Pink Floyd's best work. The music, however, is certainly good, and the instrumental tracks are a pleasant addition to the Pink Floyd repertoire, representing welcome diversity within its discography.

PHOTO: PINKFLOYD.COM



Freshmen Think They've Got it Covered

By Phillip Scholer and Ty Allen
Staff Writers

Alex Bulgarino, the usual author of this column, was not able to write this edition due to *Dance Moms* Season 4's coming out on Netflix, so we are taking over.

Let's start with football. The freshman football team capped off their season with a close game against that-school-where-you-don't-have-to-do-the-daily-hour-of-homework-if-you're-on-the-football-team. Some of these freshman football studs have gone on to get a better seat for the varsity football games, specifically Wes "Steal yo' girl" Hall, Palmer "We never had a thing" Thombs, Clint Blackwell, Jackson McFadden, Ty Allen, and Ben Frigon.

Ben was disappointed to lose a close battle with Cole Euerard for the QB1 position on the varsity team, but don't worry, he has moved on to bigger and better things. Channel 5 News has already offered him a news anchor job.

In student section news, large

groups of freshmen have been seen in the Big Red Sea, and almost 5% of them are cheering. The rest are up top, debating whether or not to go say hi to their homecoming dates. Good work, players!

As football season comes to a close, the freshmen now look forward to watching the freshman basketball team. It's harder to make this team than to get a 90 on a Dr. Batten theme. Unfortunately, Will Nutter, Thomas Carr, Drew Weikert, and Alexander Roberts found this out the hard way, as they will not be playing on this exclusive team. Better luck next time, guys.

McClain Portis has managed to get 8 more girls to follow him on Instagram. Go get 'em, tiger.

So far this year we've learned that Jameis Winston worships Satan (Rob Harvey), Harpeth Hall girls are not so easy to hold on to (P. Thombs), and that Ensworth girls are great dancers (T. Allen). We've also learned that the squirrels outside Coach Stewart's windows are very "distracting." We know that Nutter hates Hoffman. Not Shelby, but Will.



MAN WITH A PLAN: William Kinard is #StrictlyBusiness.

Shout out to Falls and Dayton for not going to a football game.

Shout out to Cal Bryan for not talking to his Homecoming date once. But he did do a flip off the bridge.

Shout out to Ford Ray and Harrison Graves for being a "dynamic" duo.

Special thanks to all the security dads at the Homecoming after party. And to Manny Rogers...

Sophomores Try Not to Care

By Turner Johnson
Staff Writer

The first semester of Sophomore year is coming to a close, and exams are coming up faster than we'd like. Thanksgiving is over here on the Hill, so you know what that means?!? More undercooked pizza and chocolate milk on tap. The winter also brings a new sports season, and that means wrestling!

John Michael Glover is really looking forward to another great season of bonding with teammates and hard work. Sophomore standout wrestler Jorma "OH JORMA" McClure is looking to sweep his weight class

on his way to an undefeated season and a state title.

In other sporting news, Big Red Football star defensive lineman John Dugan is now starting for the Big Red at defensive end, and the coaches love him! Other MBA football standout Derrick "Shuttlesworth" Payne has had a

great season at RB. Derrick has also looked great in the last 12 pointless pictures he's posted on Twitter. Jackson Maradik has had at least 4 GREAT passes in scout team this season.

Now, into the school year, a lots of guys are driving. Some, like Sam "Juicy" Garrett, Perry "high

pain tolerance" Matthews, and Nick "Shark" Ray have the dixiest trucks imaginable. If you need any tips for driving, be sure to ask Will Hoffman or Palmer "It's good to get your big crash out of the way" Einstman.

Don't forget that the holidays are coming up, so get your boothang a gift. For gift ideas ask William Porter or Caleb Jernigan.

Stay classy, Sophomores.



BRO TIME: Sophomores wish they could still be livin' it up in Cali.

STAKING HIS CLAIM: Jackson asserts himself as a leader both on and off the Hill.



Junior Class Awaits Whenever the Next Break is

By Nolan Spear
Sports Editor

Well, gents, as the winds get colder and the days get shorter, things in the Junior class are truly heating up. **Gray Adelman** went on an adventure just a few short weekends ago, and I must say he has emerged a much wiser man because of it. In a continued saga of jokes, **Jack King** has not visited any colleges in the past few weeks, but don't worry, when he does, you'll be sure to hear about it.

On the academic front, **Tony Ding** recently informed our English class

that his future in the math world is in serious jeopardy, but **Werner Bradshaw** does not believe this. In the same period, **Andy Zhu** expressed some serious doubt about selling his heart and soul to the debate team. **Cole Campbell** didn't have much to say about that.

In unrelated news, **Sam Smith** and **Winston Hewett** recently said "goodbye" to the Sophomore class after one too many empty Saturday nights. **Sam** cited his focus on his upcoming senior football career, and **Winston** said he was looking to make some increased "power moves."

In the sports world, **Peter Briggs** has been playing a lot, and I mean a lot, of lacrosse. In fact, if you ask him, he'll be sure to tell you about his adventures in "Maryland" with the "2014 New Excuse Super Stick Blue Chip Triple-X Cali Swag All-Star Team." However, all this stick handling has not stopped him from frequently getting emotional on Twitter. So I ask all you gents out there, if you notice that **Peter/Peaches/Freshman Pete/Big Papi/SkeeterMcPeter/Emily Briggs** is looking a little sad in the halls, make sure to pat him on the back and let him

know that it's gonna be ok.

Also, **Glenn Coleman** put some serious moves out there on Friday; everyone make sure to congratulate him (seriously). **Connor Downey** has been pretty quiet in the golf world lately. Hopefully something isn't up with that Golden Swing.

And last but not least, everyone please know that **Yavin Alwis** can always be reached for any sort of academic, or inspirational, needs.



NO GRAY HAIRS FOR THESE YOUNG FELLAS: *Connor and Adam like what they see.*

Seniors Strategically Plan College Visits

By Davis Luster
Staff Writer

Ecce! Though the senior class is off to a less-than-stellar start this year, there's still time for improvement. Thankfully, we still have a few highlights to report.

First of all, a big congratulations to **Cole "Statue of Liberty" Euverard** on winning the Mr. Football Award. We're proud of you, **Cole**. Also, congratulations to **Chadwell Mitchell (.com)** for recently committing to Mercer and to **Stephen "Penalty Box" Ray** for committing to The University of Tampa for lacrosse. #Sports. Speaking of college commits, after completing the #ThreePeat, **Andrew Conwell** seeks to become a member of the Quad Squad. **Blake "Spirit Week is Ole Miss Week" Solarek** has also really been nailing it this year. Wait, or was it **Chris "Abercrombie Model" Estes**? Who knows? **Owen "Girl on Fire" Powell** caught fire the other night. He hopes to get another snow day soon to cool him off.

After a year's drought, **John Hazen** is back on the prowl. His newly found confidence will surely boost him to regain his title as #KingSnapchat (Junior Division). Good luck, **John**. With regards to college, **Mac "Ron" Mackey** and **Jackson "WWE" Garey** plan to room together next year at Michigan. Sources say that **Andrew** is not happy about that. **Geoffrey Holland** has informed *The Bell Ringer* in an exclusive interview that he has ruled out all colleges except for liberal arts schools that start with a "W." **Wooster**, **Wofford**, **Wellesley**, **Wesleyan**, and **Whitman** round out his top 5. We think **Wellesley** is his top choice, though.

The Big Red also had a stellar showing at Model UN recently. **Kang**

"is love, Kang is life" **Huh** led a group of determined young diplomats to great success. After attending the conference,

visiting Vanderbilt and couldn't be reached for comment. **John "Sawen" Lafranchise's** fever is in remission, but many fear it will return with a vengeance.

Lastly, everyone needs to come out and support German and the Man, an up and coming duo of **Anthony**

Swenson and **Owen Powell**. Their inaugural tour will commence on New Year's Eve at Bridgestone Arena, where they'll cover some Dutch and the Kid songs. **ToneNectar** is supposedly set to open for the group.

John "Baewatch" Triplett has begun the hunt for a new bae over at the Wood of the Ravens (Shout out to **Charles "Sohayla" Hunter** for pioneering that trend). **Kang Huh** has taken "The DM" by storm, but he can't seem to bring the same vigor to AP English. **Alec "Nebraska" Giammalvo** and **Michael "The War. The Great War. The War to End All Wars." Milam** are getting Schrammed in AP Comp Sci. **Thomas "Totoro sucks" Marosz** is planning to move to Japan to find a waifu.

Sam Carey is vaulting to all new levels on his magic pole. **Steve "He applied to Stanford too?" Wood** once raised his voice. **Richard "Wagon Wheel" Thornton** loves calculus almost as much as **William "New Glasses" Snow** does.

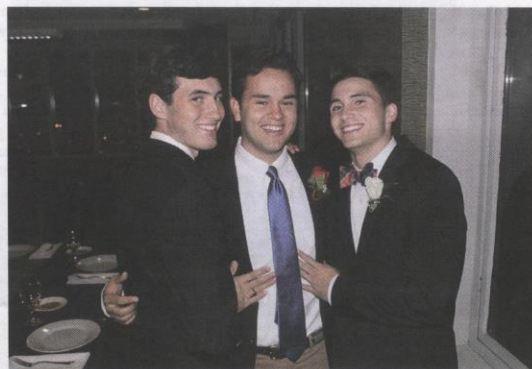
That is all for now. Roll Red and remember, always chew Juicy Fruit Gum.



ON TRACK FOR A FIRST PLACE FINISH: *Owen Powell beats Jalen Ramsey...and Usain Bolt.*

Louis Brown (University) informed *The Bell Ringer* that he regretted signing up because there were no attractive females named "UN" there. In an interview, he commented, "I mean it's fine but it's called 'Model UN,' so what else would you expect?"

Chad had nothing on **Parks Ball** at homecoming. **Haynes Young** told *The Bell Ringer* that Panera now serves Cobb Salad. Apparently he is back to eating it again after taking a break during the summer. **Haynes** and **Mac** have been really been enjoying the feminist poetry in Spanish Lit, but **Curtis Turner** doesn't seem to be on top of the reading. **Mac** and **Harrison Wheeler** apparently slid into the DMs of someone named "Ron." **Matt "Michael Milam" Miccioli** was busy



IT TAKES THREE TO TANGO: *Homecoming brought out the best looks in everyone. Mac, Jackson and Andrew led the way.*

HEADLINE PHOTOS BY MIKEL JONES / MIKEL PHOTOGRAPHY

Bathroom Humor: Winter Edition

On the Hill, we take time to appreciate all of our facilities. The New Dining Hall might earn more time on the school webpage, but the bathrooms are closer to each student's heart. The restrooms foster a sense of camaraderie, visible in the brief interactions of boys with a common goal.



MOST LIKELY TO BE CLOGGED

Bottom Floor of Ingram

Few things in life are surer than the dysfunction of the throne in the basement of Ingram.

CLEANEST

Rifle Range

Pay the riflery center a visit to experience the pristine porcelain ensconced within the welcoming confines of the parking garage. Known by only a select few, the facilities represent the perfect punctuation to a Big Red Lap or a jaunt along West End.



BEST VIEW

Third Floor of Lowry

After finishing your business, you might step up to the windows, breathe deeply, and take in the majestic, seemingly endless green expanse of the athletic fields hundreds of feet below. You might even hear Mr. Kelly whispering *The Canterbury Tales* in the background. Perhaps you have a test next period or the firecracker chicken from 5th period has decided to reappear sooner than expected—no matter—in this instance you are one with the campus.



MOST THOUGHT-PROVOKING

Second Floor of Ingram

Are you a lion or gazelle? This storied adage, though, is a paradox—you will be getting up and running nowhere in a hurry, since the seven chicken patties you ate earlier are the real beast.

MOST ZEN

Long Mountain Observatory

Nothing says serene like stepping outside the dome and taking in the placid Lake Dobson, a view unobstructed by ambient light.

BEST STUDENT ART

Main Floor of Davis

Anonymous artists have decorated these hallowed stalls with a diverse collection of rugged, Banksy-inspired street art chronicling the legendary exploits of past MBA demigods.

MOST PROVOCATIVELY SCENTED

Second Floor of Lowry

The Lowry Smell is brave. The Lowry Smell is resilient. The Lowry Smell knows no bounds.



MOST AWKWARD ENCOUNTERS

Third Floor of Ingram

The architect likely failed his geometry class, seemingly ignoring spatial reasoning and viewing angles in his planning of the room. #Uncomfortable #HowdyDemarco

UNSUNG HERO

Soccer Field

Although infrequently employed and oft-forgotten, this dark horse candidate is a heavy-hitting newcomer to the campus mix, boasting relative isolation from the heart of the campus and cleanliness to boot.

BEST LOCATION FOR A NEW TOILET

Top of the Lowry Staircase

Take a seat and take in the panoramic experience. Best positioning would be on a trampoline-esque balcony in the center of the rotunda, attached by sturdy rope to the surrounding circular railings.